



Office of Education, Division of Intramural Research
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute

July 2004 Fellows Newsletter

From the Director of the Office of Education:

With this issue of the NHLBI Fellows Newsletter we are introducing a new feature – articles written by NHLBI fellows. The first is by Dr. Denise Crooks, PCCMB, about the fellows retreat. Dr. Crooks will continue with other articles in the future about issues important to fellows, and we invite other fellows to contribute as well. She will be assisted by several fellows who have volunteered to serve on an Editorial Board. We would also like to include information about significant papers published by fellows. In addition, if there are other issues you would like to see in the newsletter, please let us know and we will try to address them. I look forward to your responses. Please e-mail your comments to: direducation@nhlbi.nih.gov

NHLBI Fellows Retreat Termed a Success

Reported by Denise Crooks, PCCMB

Most days, finding the time to actively prepare for a career after NIH is complicated by lab work, seminars and journal clubs, or seemingly endless stacks of papers to read. On June 24-25, the NHLBI Office of Education hosted the second annual NHLBI fellows retreat held on the elegant grounds of the Airlie Conference Center in Warrenton, Virginia. The annual retreats are prompted, in part, by the desire of NHLBI to prepare fellows for establishing and maintaining a scientific career.

The group included 125 fellows, as well as such notables as the Acting Director of the NHLBI, Dr. Barbara Alving, and the NHLBI Scientific Directors, Dr. Robert Balaban, and Dr. Elizabeth Nabel.

"NHLBI Post-docs have a new opportunity that we didn't have when we were post-docs at NIH. The retreat brings together a large body of excellent scientists. The connections they make here with colleagues can last for the rest of their scientific careers. The most

important part is that we are able to grow associations across the whole body," said Dr. Balaban. He encouraged fellows to "go outside NHLBI" to make those associations within the larger NIH community.

In the keynote address, Dr. Bruce Alberts, President of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, stressed the importance of science education and discovery to the future of the scientific enterprise. He also pointed out the international nature of science, and the responsibility of the scientific community to help policy makers make decisions that affect the planet.

Among the activities featured during the retreat were career development panels and roundtable discussions with panelists drawn from the world of journalism, the pharmaceutical industry, academia, business development, NIH extramural programs and the FDA. Panelists described the skills sought after by employers, such as the ability to solve problems and to communicate well, or how to recognize and do important science. They spoke of their own experiences learning how to transfer their scientific expertise to nontraditional careers in journalism and business

development. The roundtable format provided an opportunity for fellows to discuss the professional issues of particular importance to them.

Thursday afternoon included a poster session with lively discussions at many posters. According to Dr. Barbara Adamik, it was a "very good opportunity to talk to people from NHLBI and find out what they are working on. The group was small enough that I was able to talk to a lot of people." Mr. Farshid Rouhani thought that there was "good coverage of basic and clinical research." Representatives from the NHLBI core facilities also presented their work.

An awards presentation was held after dinner on Thursday. The Research Award recipients, Drs. Mihaly Kovacs and Barbara Adamik, were selected on the basis of their scientific achievements that were described during the presentation of their posters, and each received \$1000 in funding for meeting travel. Dr. Rodney Levine, a Senior Investigator, was awarded the research Mentoring Award on the basis of his strong commitment to fostering the careers of NHLBI fellows. In addition, the Lenfant Fellowship Awards were presented to Dr. Mihaly Kovacs and Dr. Rebecca Lipsitz for their research

achievements during their careers at NHLBI.

After the sun set on Thursday, a group gathered on the rooftop of the Airlie Center to network, and even to dance to the sounds of live music from Band of Blue, with NHLBI Fellow Ted Mills as the drummer. Ted, who is leaving NHLBI this year to begin a career as an Assistant Professor at the University of Texas at Austin, promised to return to next years' retreat.

On Friday morning, fellows heard a talk by Dr. Andrew Marks of Columbia University about the ryanodine receptor and its potential role in the development of heart failure and arrhythmias. This was followed by talks by three NHLBI Fellows who have succeeded in obtaining jobs in Academia: Drs. Qize Wei, Shyama Masilamani and Edward Mills. These were inspiring talks, not only for their scientific content, but because each of these fellows has landed a job as an Assistant Professor.

After lunch, many participated in a softball game. "This was not a

hard-nosed, serious game," noted Dr. Paul Jobsis. "We had fun. We played with people from all over the world, some of whom had never played softball before."

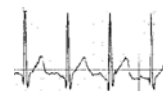
The retreat concluded with series of round table discussions on specific concerns such as immigration, dual-career families, and science in China that can affect fellows at all levels. Dr. Hang Wang praised the idea of having both an immigration session for foreign fellows who wish to remain in the United States, as well as a session describing funding opportunities available to fellows who wish to return to China.

While the retreat is now over, its effects are still being felt. For example, Dr. Heather Jones finds herself "greeting more people in the hallway. I recognized their faces before, but now that we've met at the retreat and talked science together, we are no longer just familiar strangers." Such hallway interactions could one day fulfil Dr. Balaban's hope that we not ignore the power of connecting with our colleagues at NHLBI as we progress in our scientific careers.

New NHLBI Fellow



Dr. Michelle Galloway recently joined the Laboratory of Biochemistry under Dr. Thressa Stadtman. Dr. Galloway earned her B.S. at Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, North Carolina in 1996. She then went to Delaware State University in Dover, Delaware where she got her Masters Degree in 1998. She recently completed her Ph.D. in Analytical Chemistry at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Dr. Galloway is currently working on Selenium Biochemistry. She is eventually planning to apply DNA microarrays to investigate emerging infectious diseases.



Volunteers Needed

The Office of Education welcomes your participation in planning activities.

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